

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE AUGUST 2025



**A THRIVING VILLAGE COMMUNITY
IN THE HEART OF SOMERSET**

EDITOR

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

Proof reader - Margaret Coombs

Magazine Cover:

Photographs by
Bob & Penny Coombs & Bob Winn

Articles relating to all aspects of our village and community
are always welcome.

Final date for acceptance: Mid-day on 12th of the month.

Please help to make the magazine interesting by contributing material.

**When reading your free online copy or one of the the hard copies
available in church please remember to support the few remaining
advertisers whenever possible**

*It is emphasised that the views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of the magazine editorial team, unless attributed,
or those sent in by identifiable contributors.*

IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS photo by Bob Winn



A
WHEATEAR

Cover - Spot the Butterfly



**AWARD WINNING
FAMILY RUN BUSINESS**

Shop and Post Office

Open Monday – Friday 6.45am – 6pm

Saturday 8am – 6pm

Sunday 8am – 12pm

Tel – 01823 279168

Butchers

Open Tuesday – Friday 8.00am – 3pm

Saturday 7.00am – 2pm

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tel – 01823 337497

BISHOP'S HULL CAR BOOT SALES 2025

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

NEXT SALE

BH Playing Field

Sunday 3rd AUGUST

Sunday 17th AUGUST

Bank Holiday Monday 25th AUGUST

Sunday 7th SEPTEMBER

Sunday 21st SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5th OCTOBER



Start Time 7a.m.

Bishop's Hull Playing Field TA1 5EB

///rocket.force.Monday

Sellers' Cars: £7 Vans: £10 Buyer Parking: £2

The Money raised supports the running and maintenance of the playing field facilities for the benefit of users and community

Sellers responsible for removing their own rubbish

Toilets Available

Dogs allowed on a lead

All events subject to cancellation without notice at organisers discretion. All net proceeds to the Bishop's Hull Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust, a non-profit making registered charity.

The Frank Bond Centre

84 Mountway Road, Bishop's Hull.

A place for the over 50s to meet new friends

Contact Carolyn 01823 283941 /Nadia 07958 246046

Come along to FBC Coffee morning on a Friday morning 10:00-12:00 and discover what activities could lie in store for you.

The cafe is open to members and non-members.

The centre is centrally heated and open 10:00-16:00
Monday-Friday

Weekly Activities:

**Monday - The Painting Group 10:00-12:00,
Whist Club 1:30-4:00
Bridge Club 1.30-4:00**

Wednesday – Flexercise & Tai Chi 10:00-12:00

**Thursday - Bridge club 10:00-12:00-Beginners welcome,
Croquet 2:00-4:00**

Friday - Pétanque 10:00-12:00,

Friday - The FBC Coffee morning 10:00-12:00

Monthly Activities:

1st Monday in month Family History 2:00-4:00

2nd Tuesday in month Parchment 10:00-3:30

3rd Wednesday in month Games 2.00-4.00

4th Wednesday in month Music Appreciation 2.00-4.00

2nd & 4th Thursday in month Mahjong 2:00-4:00

NO MONTHLY LUNCHES

Annual membership £25 Find us on Facebook (& 'Like' us)

There are many more exciting activities...

Table tennis, cards, books, puzzles

A variety of social events take place throughout the year.

Vicar:	
Reverend Philip Hughes , The Vicarage, Bishop's Hull Hill, Bishop's Hull, TA1 5EB 01823-336102	Tim Venn (Church Warden) John Perry (Church Warden)



With the village Flower Show just weeks away gardeners everywhere are constantly checking the weather forecasts. Here, in Bishop's Hull, we have had so much sunshine and so little rain over the past few months, I am beginning to get worried. When it does finally rain there is every chance that when it is just local showers your garden is the one that gets missed. (How do they do that)?

What I find surprising is that the shortage of precipitation has been a topic of conversation for as many years as I have been gardening. Some parts of the UK already have a hosepipe ban due to the low levels in local reservoirs. It is apparently due to the fact that no new reservoirs have been built in the past 30 years whilst the number of houses built has been in their millions.

Complaining about the situation doesn't seem to make much difference so what can we do individually to help alleviate the problem? I say alleviate because whatever we personally do to help will just be a drop in the ocean.

Us seasoned gardeners will already have our own water storage facilities such as large plastic dustbins to collect water when it does rain. However, during long periods of drought it doesn't take long for these to end up empty.

Here are a few things that my wife and I are doing to ensure our vegetables (and roses) have a chance of actually growing to maturity.

Prior to washing up we collect the cold water and pour it into buckets outside the back door. If you have never done this do have a go and you will be amazed just how much cold water goes down the drain before it heats up.

When having a bath we try to use just enough water to do the job but we do not pull the plug to empty the bath. When the water cools I fill a bucket and carry it down stairs to pour on the roses. Did you know that to empty a normal bath you will have to fill and carry downstairs at least 8-10 large buckets?

Do not wash your car. (We do not live in Moscow where it is a law to do this).

Inevitably the day will arrive when you will have to use either a watering can or the hose pipe to keep the plants alive and growing. I think it is well known that just to give the plants a few minutes of fine spray is not the correct thing to do. A really good soak once a week (I do it in the evenings) will do so much more good because the roots go down to find the water below and not up to seek the light surface water as described above. Please do not water your lawn - the grass isn't dead and will regrow when it does rain again.

I fear that this year my Flower Show entries will all show signs of lack of water and a pattern of slow growth. I will keep my fingers crossed as I lie in my next bath.

The Vicar Writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

August Blooms, Ancient Songs, and Coffee Morning Chatter!

August – a month that always feels brimming with sunshine (hopefully!), holidays, and wonderful village events.



*First up, mark your calendars for our spectacular village **Flower Show!** The colours, the scents, the sheer talent on display – it's always a highlight of the year. Whether you're a seasoned exhibitor or just love to admire the dahlias, please do come along and support this fantastic community effort. It's a real testament to the green fingers and dedication we have in our village.*

*Speaking of beauty, August also brings us to a special day in the church calendar: **St. Bartholomew's Day** on the 24th. Bartholomew was one of Jesus's twelve apostles, and while we don't know a huge amount about his life, his feast day is a moment to reflect on faithfulness and service.*

*It also got me thinking about the Psalms. Those ancient poems and songs in the Bible often speak of creation – the hills, the valleys, the "rivers of water" – much like our gardens may speak to us! Many psalms are also hymns of praise and thanksgiving, perfectly echoing the joy we feel when we see a vibrant display of flowers, or indeed, the gratitude for the beautiful world around us. So, as you wander through the Flower Show, perhaps a line from a Psalm might come to mind, like **"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it"** (Psalm 24:1).*

*And to round off a busy month, don't forget our regular **Coffee Morning** on Saturday, 30th August, starting at 10am. It's always a wonderful chance to catch up with friends, make new ones, and enjoy some delicious cakes and a good cuppa. We'd love to see you there!*

Let's hope for glorious weather and a wonderful August for us all, full of community spirit, beautiful blooms, and perhaps a moment of quiet spiritual reflection rooted in God's Word. May God richly bless you.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev Phil Hughes

Vicar, Chaplain and hopeless gardener!



A musical thank you

In 2022, Anthony Knight, a talented young musician began performing a series of charity recitals featuring the music of Bach and Telemann in churches and care homes across Bath and Wells. Over the course of his project, he gave 75 recitals, including a performance at Wells Cathedral, and raised £13,715 in support of the DEC Ukraine Appeal.

In recognition of his contribution, Anthony was honoured with an invitation to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Now a student at the Royal College of Music, Anthony gave a solo concert in June. He has made a high-quality digital recording of the performance and is offering this as a thank you for the warm welcome and encouragement he received in churches across the diocese.

It is available [as a download](#).

Read more about Anthony's journey.

PS. Anthony is the grandson of Jan who lives in Bishop's Hull and regularly attends church.

Rev'd Phil Hughes

The Vicarage

Bishops Hull Hill

Bishops Hull

TA1 5EB

Telephone: 01823 336102

Email: phil2overflowing@gmail.com

Website: www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk

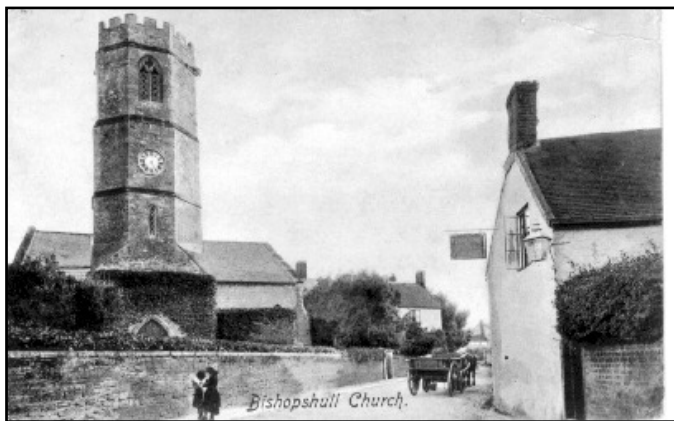
Facebook: [St Peter and St Paul, Bishops Hull](#)

St Peter's & St Paul's Church Bridge **Coffee Mornings**

The Bridge is what we have called the Welcome Area.

The Church has opened **the Bridge** for the return of the Monthly Coffee Mornings to be held on the last Saturday of each month and running now through the rest of 2025.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 30th August**. Come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat and SWAP a book. From 10am till 12noon.



Bell Ringing

We are very proud of our Bell Ringing team and our bells! There are 6 bells in the tower and ringing is done from ground level. The Bell Tower is accessed on the North Side of the church.

Ringling happens for the main service on Sunday (usually ringing starts at 09.15am and rings until the service starts at 10am). Practice night is Wednesday at 7.30pm. Quarter peals (50 minutes) may be attempted up to twice a month at 11.30am, usually on Tuesday or Wednesday. Our Tower Captain is Giles Morley and he can be contacted on 01823 430710

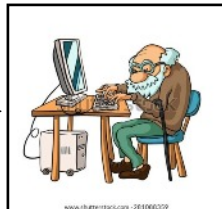




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Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!

Dear Editor -

4th July 2025

This may be of interest to you and your readers,

Regards,

Phil Hughes

Nature notes for Parish Magazines

Is your church keen to celebrate and protect the wildlife in your churchyard? Caring for God's Acre is offering a free monthly resource to support churches.

Nature notes are short , engaging articles written by ecologists. Each one highlights a seasonal plant, animal or churchyard feature and is designed to be easily added to newsletters or parish magazines, or noticeboards. To receive it please email enquiries@cfga.org.uk



Bishop's Hull Parish Council News

At the meeting on 5th June the following resolutions were made:

- The Clerk to request a repeat ROSPA inspection with all necessary repairs to be carried out before the PC takes ownership of the Village play park.
- Cllr N Fernandes was appointed for Internal Controls
- The Internal Audit showed no matters of non-compliance and was approved by Councillors
- The Annual Governance and Accounting Statements were approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk. These will now be submitted to the external auditor and available on the PC website
- A site visit will be arranged at Bishop's Mead to discuss and agree preventative measures for illegal encampments
- It was agreed to purchase an extended warranty for the original speed indicator device at a cost of £199 per year for three years
- You can find a copy of the latest minutes on the Parish Council Website - Bishop's Hull Parish Council — News and updates from Bishop's Hull Parish/Town/ Community Council .

Next meeting — The Parish Council met on Thursday 3rd July in the HUB

Chair's update - The PC fully understands the frustrations of the current and upcoming road closures surrounding our village. We must focus on the fact that a few months of traffic disruption is surely better than a few weeks without gas should the aging system fail?

Please be kind and courteous to the workmen around the village as they are, and will be and indeed have been, extremely engaging when the odd, and I believe, rare unforeseen issues have arisen. It is of course unfortunate that SC contractors are carrying out the upgrades to the Chelston-M5 link road at the same time but this again is necessary work for everyone's safety.

Local social media posts of late have been somewhat derogatory towards the PC in relation to the ongoing works around our village. Social media is an amazing concept but we must be aware that not all is a truthful account of what's being reported on some channels! Contractors carrying out works for and on behalf of SC highways or utilities companies alike have contact details available should you have questions about their specific works.

There's a contact number for the contractor Wales and West: 0800 912 2999 - should anyone have concerns. Going direct to them is by far the best course of action in gaining information and assistance quickly.

Please feel free to contact myself or our clerk with any concerns directly relating to our Parish.

Please make sure you allow additional time for your journeys and enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Tony Taylor

Bishop's Hull Hub 100 Club — June 2025 winners

1st Roger Berry - £38.00, 2nd Angela Davis - £19.00 & 3rd Audrey & Dennis Pike — £9.50

Tickets are £2 per month - Email bhhub100club@gmail.com for further details

Wales and West Gas mains replacement works

J26 and Link Road project - Due to the depth of excavations required around the Junction 26 roundabout, the project will require **a complete closure** of junction 26 and the A38 link road (**from J26 to Foxmoor Business Park**) for around **fourteen weeks** from 15 June to mid to late September.

Access will be maintained to Foxmoor Business Park from the **Chelston roundabout**.

Full details can be found via the link below:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/council-confirms-public-drop-in-dates-for-junction-26-and-chelston-link-road-project/>

M5 — Junction 26 Closure information - A dedicated webpage has been set up to provide an overview, FAQs and updates:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/major-refurbishment-of-junction-26-and-chelston-link-road/>

To subscribe to the newsletters/further information please contact the Somerset Council Public Liaison Officer: **Syed Shah on 07717 844 042**, syed.shah@somerset.gov.uk “



Gas works in Waterfield Drive and Silk Mills Bishop's Hull



**St Margaret's
Hospice Care**
Celebrating 45 years of our care

Every Moment Counts appeal surpasses expectations and raises £160,000 in just 36 hours`for St Margaret's Hospice

St Margaret's Hospice is thrilled to announce that their fundraising appeal – **Every Moment Counts** – achieved its goal of raising £100,000 in a 36-hour period. This milestone was hit in just **13 hours**. When the clock struck 9pm on Friday 20 June and the appeal closed, a total of **£160,917** had been raised. The total is expected to increase as cash donations from the two-day fundraising endeavour are added.

St Margaret's Hospice Care has been at the heart of Somerset's community for 45 years, delivering high quality, responsive and compassionate care to patients facing a life-limiting illness and their families. In that time, we have become a household name, firmly rooted in local communities delivering care and support for people living in Porlock in the East to Wincanton on the West, and every town, village and neighbourhood in between.

What do we do?

St Margaret's is a community funded charity, caring across Somerset. We support people of all ages with life-limiting illness; not just cancer. Our care embraces an individualised holistic care plan including physical, emotional and spiritual care which is available to our patients, their families and carers.

Last year St Margaret's supported 4,833 people across Somerset. The majority of whom were cared for in their own homes by one of our five community nursing teams. Our 24-hour Adviceline managed over 31,000 calls and our specialist In-Patient Unit in Taunton continues to provide 24-hour complex symptom control.

2025 marks the 45th anniversary of St Margaret's Hospice Care. What started with a nurse led initiative funded by a fundraising event raising £400, is now a £15m turnover operation, employing 350 staff and supported by over 900 volunteers!

Please contact Hayley Milne, Head of Communications for more information Hayley.Milne@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk | 01823 333822.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Bishops Hull Belles WI

Bishops Hull Belles is a group of friendly women with meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month (except August) at 7.30pm at the Bishops Hull HUB




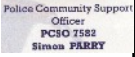
- These monthly meetings have a speaker or other activity together with business items
- Topics for future meetings will be published here each month.
- Lunches and coffee/brunches are organised monthly.
- Additionally there is a walking group arranged fortnightly (except mid winter and August) and a scrabble group meets on a monthly basis.
- A day trip usually takes place in August.
- Why not come along to one of our monthly meetings where you will be warmly welcomed. The cost is £4 per visit (up to 3 meetings) which is then deducted from the annual subscription upon joining.
- Further information can be obtained from Heather Blackmore the group's secretary. Tel:01823-283884 mob 07963834365

Next Meeting

Bishop's Hull Belles Next meeting - Thursday 24th July at 7.30pm
Guest Speaker - Jamie Lewis from The independent Living Centre

Secretary. Tel:01823-283884 mob 07963834365



	<u>Neighbourhood Beat Team</u> PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297 lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk	
	PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815 marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.police.uk	

BISHOPS HULL NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM (from village WEB site)

PCSO Lyndsay Smith - 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Tony Wearmouth 8413 - 07889 655312

tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes enable you and your neighbours to come together to have a say in the issues which matter to you in your community.

We have been committed to supporting Neighbourhood Watch throughout our force since its introduction in 1982.

What are the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch?

There are benefits to joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

It shows that members of a community are looking out for each other

It keeps you up-to-date with what is going on in your area

It can help to prevent and tackle crime in your community

It may save you money on your home insurance

Join your local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

To find out how you can become involved in Neighbourhood Watch, contact your local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme administrator:



The Home Office has launched its Ninja Sword Surrender and Compensation Scheme, which runs for the entire month of July. Please read the attached document for more information on where these weapons can be handed in across the Avon and Somerset policing area. Please share this on any social media accounts you may have, so we can reach as many residents as possible.

Attachments:

month-long-ninja-sword-surrender-.pdf

There has been an increase in reports of Rogue Traders operating across the West Somerset area. Typically, they will cold call on properties to say that their roof needs work, often stressing that it needs to be done urgently or it may cause further damage and cost.

The most recent occurrence was today in Minehead, where the offenders were in the process of removing the roof before being stopped by officers. It has been known for the culprits to disappear without finishing any work, especially if they have been paid in advance.

If you are approached by these traders, please call the police on 101 or report them online. Call 999 if you feel threatened.

Attachments:

cold-callers-warning-revised.pdf

There have been a number of burglaries that have occurred while the residents were away. As the peak holiday periods are approaching, please consider improving your home security if you're leaving your property unoccupied. The attached document gives you tips on things to do and things to avoid while you're away.

Attachments:

dear-burglar.pdf



From John Hunt, your local representative on the council

Actions you can take to stay safe in hot weather

At the time of writing (mid-afternoon 10th July), it's an uncomfortably hot day and I'm drinking ice cold water to cool down. With the usually very hot month of August to come, I thought I'd check out the Gov.uk website for their recommendations for keeping cool and staying safe.



Here are their suggestions:

keep out of the sun at the hottest time of the day, between 11am and 3pm

if you are going to do a physical activity (for example exercise or walking the dog), plan to do these during times of the day when it is cooler such as the morning or evening

keep your home cool by closing windows and curtains in rooms that face the sun

if you do go outside, cover up with suitable clothing such as an appropriate hat and sunglasses, seek shade and apply sunscreen

drink plenty of fluids and limit your alcohol intake

check on family, friends and neighbours who may be at higher risk of becoming unwell, and if you are at higher risk, ask them to do the same for you

For more advice, please visit Gov.uk

Please do not forget that hot weather can also be dangerous for animals. Advice from the RSPCA:

Never leave animals in cars, conservatories, outbuildings, or caravans on a warm day, even if it's just for a short while. When it's 22°C outside, temperatures can quickly rise to 47°C (117°F) in these environments, which can be deadly.

For more advice, please visit RSPCA.org.uk

Please take care and stay safe.

John Hunt



BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

1 00 years ago

There was a large congregation at Bishop's Hull Church on the occasion of the unveiling and dedication of a Roll of Honour, containing the complete list of names of every man in the parish who served in the Great War.

The service was conducted by the vicar, the Rev GFC Raban. After the third Collect a procession of choir,

clergy and congregation was formed and proceeded to the outside porch for the dedication ceremony. All gathered around the Roll of Honour, a beautiful memorial in carved oak, with a top ledge of foliage and vine leaves, and two panels with an inscription in gold, and the names painted in white lettering, a red Maltese cross being placed against those who lost their lives. The whole is surrounded by a pretty carved border. The tablet is the work of Miss Constance Lythall, of Bishop's Hull, after a design by Mr Herbert Read, of Exeter. The number of names commemorated is about 140. The tablet was covered with the Union Jack. Captain W Mallalieu, a parishioner, in uniform, stepped forward, and addressed a few words to the assembly before unveiling the Roll of Honour. The vicar read the dedication prayer, after which the first verse of the National Anthem was sung. The address was given by the Rev F Barton Horspool, rector of Angersleigh, who based his remarks on 'Service and Sacrifice'.

He said that Roll of Honour should always be treasured as a memorial of a worthy achievement on the part of the parish of Bishop's Hull, for it represented in the very truest sense both service and sacrifice in a most sacred cause. Although but a comparatively small parish, he understood that Bishop's Hull contributed, in proportion, a great many men to the colours, as the very long list of names would testify to all.

The members of Rumwell Working Men's Club had their third annual outing, in the shape of a circular tour. About 50 participants left the headquarters, the Crown Inn, in well-appointed charabancs and after visiting Chard went on to Lyme Regis and Seaton. Here a halt of three hours was made and luncheon and tea taken. At 6.30 pm a start homewards was commenced and running via Honiton, Rumwell was reached after a delightful trip extending over 12 hours. The arrangements for the day's trip were excellent, reflecting credit upon the chairman (Mr J Hebditch), the vice-chairman (Mr A Burrows), the hon secretary (Mr J Fry) and Mr and Mrs Marker. During the outward and return journeys short stays were made at two or three places for sandwiches, etc, the catering being provided by the genial host and hostess of the Crown Inn

(Mr and Mrs FP Marker). The members of the party hailed from Rumwell, West Buckland, Wellington, Bradford-on-Tone, Staplegrove, Hele, Norton Fitzwarren, Trull, Bishop's Hull, Upcott and Wheddon, as well as a couple of visitors from London.

50 years ago

The Village Hall and Playing Fields Association held its annual fete in the Lodge Field. It had been feared that the recent drainage excavations on the playing field would make the ground unsuitable. A large crowd enjoyed displays by the Junior Leaders' PE team and by the morris men from Bishops Lydeard and watched Mr C Paul at work on a blacksmith's forge. The fete was opened by Mr Frank Bond, who also judged the children's fancy dress. The winners were - over 7 years equal, Dawn Summerscales (Little Miss Muffet) and Karen Rowlands (No Strike) and under 7 years Caroline Treble (Queen of Hearts). The fete queen was Lesley Taylor, the fete princess Julie Oaten and their attendant Jeanette Hooper. With other children they had raised £82 in the competitions. Mr G Hooper and Mr K Guppy organised a skittles week at the Old Inn with a profit of over £35. The fete raised a total of over £350.

The wedding took place at the parish church of Mr Graham Colin Stagg, only son of Mr D Stagg of Horner Road Taunton and Miss Sandra Anne Cavill of Northfields. The ceremony was conducted by the vicar, Mr EG Mullins. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a white chiffon dress with fluted cape-effect sleeves, with a white picture hat. Her bouquet was of yellow and gold rosebuds and white freesias.

Mr Charlie Batten, of Mountway Road, died at the age of 74. He was a skilled tailor and for many years served in the Somerset Special Constabulary. The funeral service at Taunton Deane cemetery chapel was conducted by the Rev Brian Kirk. Burial followed in the family grave. In addition to family mourners there were representatives from Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Special Constabulary, Police Rugby Club and Bishops Hull Constitutional Club. The Co-operative Funeral Service made the arrangements.

Instead of the usual meeting, an afternoon outing was arranged by the Good Companions Club. Members were taken by coach to the Mendips, travelling through Cheddar Gorge, then proceeding to the Swan Hotel Wedmore, where they were entertained to tea by invitation of Mr and Mrs Ponsford.

John Hamer

Bishop's Hull Flower Show **Sunday 10th August from 2pm.**

We are a local, friendly and supportive show and encourage everyone to enter; you can enter just 1 class or 20!. The closing date for entries is **Wednesday 6th August.**



The classes range from vegetables, fruit, flower arranging, home craft, handicraft to art and photography with children's classes for a number of different age ranges.



There are two fun classes that are judged prior to the show, from the road (free entry). The scarecrow competition with first prize being £10 and the theme is '*A character from a nursery rhyme*'. The other class is the tallest sunflower in Bishop's Hull with a first prize of £5 voucher very kindly sponsored by Avery's. These will be judged on **Sunday 3rd August** by John Hunt and a scarecrow trail will be advertised from

Monday 4th August which can be picked up from the Post Office.

The closing date for these entries is **Saturday 2nd August.**

As this is a community event that brings our village together, we encourage everyone to enter the show.

The schedule and entry form can be picked up from the Post Office.



Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union



The Mothers' Union was founded in 1876. Since then, it has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle.

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING AUGUST

Leek, bacon and potato soup



1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
50 g/2 oz butter
4 large rashers bacon, smoked back bacon is recommended
4 medium leeks, cleaned and shredded
2 tbsp flour
570 ml/1 pint chicken stock
275 ml/1/2 pint milk
salt and pepper
ground nutmeg
2 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
2 tbsp chopped parsley

Fry onions gently in the butter for 3 minutes. Add the bacon and leeks and fry for a further 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in the flour and cook for 30 seconds. Gradually stir in the stock and milk, bring to the boil slowly. Season to taste, adding the nutmeg at this point. Allow to simmer for approximately 10 minutes. Add the cubed potato, and simmer for a further 15 to 20 minutes. Blend in a food processor, and serve piping hot, sprinkling a little chopped parsley on top.

Isobel Magowan

Egg and bacon pie



2 -3 eggs, beaten
salt and pepper
1 teacup of milk
1/4 lb minced boiled bacon, or diced rashers.

Line a shallow dish with pastry; beat up 2 or 3 eggs, add pepper and salt to season and 1 teacup milk. Add 1/4 lb minced boiled bacon or rashers, pour gently into the pie-dish, cover with pastry and pinch the edges. Bake at 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 for about 30 minutes.

If cooked in a hot oven the pastry cooks before the custard sets. Do not make a hole in top of pastry or the filling will run out when the mixture boils. Blanched, sliced tomatoes or par-cooked thinly sliced onion may be added if desired.

Anne Reilly

Chicken, avocado and rice

1 tbsp olive oil
1 tbsp orange juice
salt and pepper
5 tbsp cooked rice
110 g/4 oz cooked chicken, cut into chunks
2 tbsp walnuts, chopped
2 apricots, chopped (dried)
1/2 avocado sliced
a bag of mixed salad leaves



Beat together the oil and orange juice salt and pepper. Mix in the rice, cooked chicken, walnuts, apricots and avocado.

Toss and serve on a bed of mixed salad leaves.

A quick supper that serves two.

Mai Curnow

Baked orange and lemon cheesecake



For the base:

225 g/8 oz digestive biscuits, crushed

50 g/2 oz butter for the filling:

600 g/ 1 lb 4 oz soft cheese,
e.g. Philadelphia

200 g/7 oz Greek yoghurt

75 g/3 oz caster sugar

1/2 an orange, grated rind and juice

1/2 a lemon, grated rind and juice

3 eggs, beaten

2 tsp cornflour

Melt butter and mix in biscuits. Press into base of a lightly greased 20 cm/8 inch spring release tin. Chill.

Pre-heat oven to 170°C/325°F/Gas 3.

Beat yoghurt and soft cheese in a large bowl until smooth.

Mix in sugar, orange and lemon rind and juice. Gradually beat in eggs and cornflour. The mixture will become runny — don't worry, this is quite right!

Pour mixture into tin, place on baking tray in the oven for 1 ¼ hours, or until set. If it becomes too brown put a sheet of foil loosely over the top. When cooked turn off the oven and allow to cool.

When cool run a knife around the edge before releasing the spring form (or you will pull the cheesecake apart). Do not try to remove from the base.

Decorate with caramelised orange and lemon slices if desired.

Warning - you must use a high-sided tin or it will rise over the edges! A loose-bottomed cake tin would also do.

Penny Coombs

Cream cheese pie



75 g/ 3 oz icing
sugar

110 g/4 oz cream
cheese

275 ml/1/2 pint
double cream

1/2 tsp vanilla
essence

You will need a baked pastry case, and fresh fruit, tinned fruit or pie filling of choice for the topping.

Beat all the ingredients for the filling together and put into baked pastry case.

Top with fruit of choice.

Valerie Pryor

Holiday reading

When I go away, I first write a list of things to pack. I pride myself on being able to pack quickly; just throw some spare clothes in a bag, toothbrush, other things I need and of course plenty to read. My experience tells me I need at least a book a day. I take old books which I have read, guidebooks and maps about the place I am visiting, and some of the books from my pile of 'to read'. My family says I spend too much packing time on what books to take and not clothes – which is probably just criticism.

When I was on holiday recently, disaster struck as I had read everything that I had with me. You never know how long a book will last you. Some you can read in a few hours and others do not get going. That forces you to buy more books or see if the place where you are staying has anything interesting on the bookshelf.

So, I found myself in a medieval town church looking around and they did have some second-hand books for sale. Sadly, there was not much of interest for me this time, but I live in hope. It is interesting to nose around churches and look at the mugshots of the PCC members and clergy. They all look incredibly young!

It is lovely to see a cared for, busy church. It stands out a mile, even in an empty building, you feel the love and spiritual warmth. One place I was tempted to take volumes from the bookshelves, but it was a church library, not a sale. So why don't churches start a little book shop in church?

**

Are your sunglasses good enough?



They may look trendy, but when you bought them, did they have the official UKCA or CE markings on them?

If not, your eyes may NOT be protected from the sun's dangerous rays. So says the Office for Product Safety and Standards, which is part of the Department for Business and Trade.

It warns that not all sunglasses can block the ultraviolet rays from the sun, but only the ones with the official UKCA or CE markings. And without protection, your eyes will be under long-term increased risk of developing cataracts, macular degeneration, photokeratitis and even solar retinopathy.

**

In praise of olive oil



Olive oil is surprisingly good for you. It has been found to be able

to ward off chronic disease and to boost your brain health. So, when those ancient Greeks praised it as an aid to staying young and healthy, it seems they were right.

While the Mediterranean diet can include up to four tablespoons of olive oil per day, a recent study at Harvard has found that even just half a tablespoon of olive oil per day helps protect your heart and brain from disease. It may even slash your risk of Parkinson's or Alzheimer's by 29 per cent, and cancer by 17 per cent. Olive oil is packed with monounsaturated fats, and even has anti-inflammatory properties, which have been compared to Ibuprofen. The best way to eat it? Add it as a dressing to your salads. Frying with it can degrade some of its properties.

**

Dogs and heatstroke



An over-hot dog is a serious matter – if they can't cool down, they are in trouble. So when is a dog too hot?

Vets warn that in temperatures of 20-23C, you need to be careful not to exert them. At 24-27C you are well into the danger zone, and over 27C is life-threatening for them.

Dogs who suffer early on are those with short noses, flat faces, or heavy coats. Small dogs suffer worse than large ones, as do all older and overweight dogs.

Dogs cannot sweat through their coats, but only through the pads on

their feet. They cool themselves by panting, which releases heat through the evaporation of their saliva from their extended tongues.

Here are the signs of heatstroke. If you see these in your dog, take action FAST, and call a vet: Excessive panting, drooling, increased heart rate, very red or very pale gums and tongue, vomiting, diarrhoea, bloodshot eyes, increasing lethargy. Get your dog out of the sun and into the shade. Stand it in a tub of cool water, and splash its tummy, between its legs and under the tail – not just on the back. But cool it gradually - don't use very cold water, to avoid causing shock. Let your dog lie on wet towels.

As for Walkies, in hot weather, go before 8am and after 7pm. Hot pavements and roads can seriously burn a dog's pads. Try holding your palm on the pavement for 15 seconds - if it is too hot for you, it is too hot for your dog.

NEVER leave your dog in a parked car. A car left in the sun can heat up to 47C within an hour. And your dog enters the life-threatening zone at 27C.

**

Those long car journeys of summer...



Are you taking a LONG car journey as part of your holiday this summer? Beware: hours on the

road can leave you tired, a bit travel sick and with aching muscles. Tiredness is the most serious – at least if you are the driver! It is reckoned that 10 – 20 percent of all car crashes are due to sleepy drivers. So, try and get enough sleep the night before, as research in Queensland, Australia has shown that drivers with less than five hours sleep are just as likely to crash as if they were over the legal limit for alcohol. Take breaks, and keep air flowing well through the car.

Motion sickness can be another hassle - and it affects around one in three of us. Though curiously enough, drivers hardly ever suffer from carsickness - just the passengers. Gut discomfort is another problem - on long car trips we tend to drink less, go to the toilet less, snack at odd times on junk food, and not move for hours. No wonder we feel sluggish and bloated.

So – when you stop for regular breaks, take the trouble to walk about. Drink plenty of water, and eat healthy snacks like bananas, apples and nuts.

Finally, avoid tight clothes on a long trip. They only put extra pressure on your abdomen. Instead, opt for loose-fitting trousers or skirts which have some 'give' around your tummy.

**

Why can I see the moon in the day?

It's holiday time, and you may be spending more time than usual with your children. That will give them ample opportunity to ask you those questions for which you have no answer. A survey has found the

top ten questions that most stump parents are:



Why is the moon sometimes out in the day? Why is the sky blue? Will we ever discover aliens? How much does the Earth weigh? How do aeroplanes stay in the air? Why is water wet? How do I do long division? Where do birds and bees go in the winter? What makes a rainbow? Why are there different times on earth?

Research by the British Science Association found that two thirds of parents most dread those questions that have to do with maths or science. Prof Brian Cox, the scientist and broadcaster, has suggested that “the best thing parents can do is work with their children to find the answers – not only can it be fun, but you’ll both learn something new along the way.”

**

Read a book!

This summer, why not encourage your children to read a book? A recent study has found that children who read for pleasure carry the benefits with them far into adulthood. And the most avid childhood readers score far higher on vocabulary tests, even 30 years later. As Marcel Proust the author once said, there are “no days of our childhood lived so fully as those spent with a favourite book.”

**

Being bored is good



This will cheer you up this summer when your children mope around the house saying that they are bored: apparently a bit of boredom is good for them.

So says a senior educationalist, Julia Robinson, who has encouraged parents NOT to force their children into too many activities. Instead, they must be allowed to become bored, so that they can have time to be reflective and calm. Too many pursuits such as music lessons, sport and online learning could result in a generation of manic, anxiety-ridden adults, she warns. Writing in *Attain*, the IAPS magazine, she has pointed out that happiness does not come from a “regime of unrealistic multitasking, running oneself ragged with an exhausting programme of endless activities.”

**

The benefits of cooie-coo

Don't be afraid to use baby talk to your baby - it is great for them. Research has found that infants whose parents talked to them at a higher pitch, in a happy tone of voice, and with elongated vowels learned nearly three times as many words by the age of two as those whose parents had not.

Research at the University of Washington and the University of Connecticut found that babies in

families who used baby talk knew an average of 433 words by the age of two. Babies in families that did not use baby talk knew on average just 169 words by the age of two.

**

The unlikely helper of red squirrels



Red squirrels have found a surprising friend in their fight to survive against grey squirrels. It is the elusive pine marten, who is a natural predator of all squirrels.

Now a recent study by Queen's University, Belfast, has found that pine martens are increasing, and that they kill more grey squirrels than red squirrels. This is because red squirrels are naturally wary of pine martens, and so avoid them. Grey squirrels, on the other hand, do not know to fear pine martens, as they are not native to the UK.

It is good news for the beleaguered red squirrels, who have been nearly wiped out since their larger North American cousins arrived in the late 19th century. Most red squirrels these days are confined in small populations in Scotland, Anglesey and the Isle of Wight.



Gardening in August

Sultry late summer

August is usually one of the hottest months of the year, making watering essential. Try to use grey water wherever possible, especially as water butts may be running low if it has been a dry summer. August is traditionally holiday time, so you might need to enlist the help of friends and family to look after the garden while you are away. When you are at home, take the time to prune wisteria and summer-flowering shrubs such as lavender once they've finished flowering.

Your monthly gardening checklists

Flowers

Collect seeds as they ripen, from plants such as aquilegias, sweet peas and love-in-a-mist, choosing a dry day

Deadhead dahlias and other perennials to encourage a constant display of blooms

Keep camellias and rhododendrons well watered through late summer while their flower buds are forming

Prune lavender once flowering is over to maintain a compact, bushy shape, but avoid cutting into old wood

Prune rambling roses, removing up to a third of stems that have flowered, and tie the rest to supports

Keep pots and hanging baskets flowering by watering and deadheading regularly, and add tomato feed fortnightly

Take softwood cuttings of woody herbs, including lavender and hyssop, choosing non-flowering shoots

Sow hardy annuals in sunny spots to provide early summer colour next year

Set up an automatic watering system for pots and hanging baskets if you're going away on holiday - in the case of a hosepipe ban, drip or trickle irrigation systems are usually exempt, check your local water board for restrictions

Take softwood cuttings from penstemons, choosing healthy, vigorous, non-flowering shoots

Remove any spent hardy annuals if you don't want them to self-seed

Plant autumn bulbs, such as colchicums, sternbergia and nerines, in pots and borders

Fruit and vegetables

Be vigilant for signs of tomato and potato blight, removing affected plants immediately to prevent spread

Summer prune both free-standing and trained apple trees, to encourage good fruiting in future years

Plant well-rooted strawberry runners into new beds

Pinch out the tops of outdoor tomatoes, as further flowers are unlikely to produce fruits that have time to ripen

Order saffron crocus bulbs (*Crocus sativus*) to plant in September, so you can harvest your own saffron this autumn

Use netting or fleece to protect blackberries and autumn raspberries from birds

Lift onions and shallots once their tops die down, then leave to dry in the sun

Cut back leaves on grapevines to let the sun ripen the fruits

Sow hardy crops such as land cress, rocket and lamb's lettuce for winter pickings

Harvest fresh herbs to freeze in ice cubes for winter use, or to hang up and dry, then store in jars

Water crops regularly, especially during hot weather, use water from a water butt if possible. In periods of drought, there may be a hosepipe ban so water your crops with a watering can

Plant blueberry bushes into acid soil

Freeze herbs in an ice-cube tray for portion size storage

House plants

Feed houseplants once a week with liquid fertiliser, continuing through to autumn

Water your house plants more regularly as the temperatures warm and light levels increase, check the soil before watering. Take a look at our guide to watering house plants

Repot any houseplants that have become top heavy or pot bound into larger containers

Ensure house plants are not getting scorched by summer sunshine. Either move further from the window or choose house plants that will thrive in a sunny spot

Some house plants, like snake plants, are particularly prone to collecting dust on their leaves. So be sure to give these a wipe regularly

Put houseplants outside for the summer in a warm, sheltered spot to enjoy the fresh air and extra light

Take leaf cuttings from houseplants, including African violets and begonias

Take leaf cuttings from succulents, such as echeverias, crassula and sedums

Check your house plants for pests like aphids, scale insects, thrips and mealybugs

Take large-leaved houseplants into the garden and hose them down to clean off accumulated dust

Garden maintenance

Cut laurel hedges with secateurs rather than a hedgetrimmer, to avoid half-cut leaves that turn brown

Clear weeds from cracks in paving and driveways before they get established

Remove problem lawn weeds, digging them out

Sow green manure to fill any bare ground

Summer prune wisteria by shortening all long sideshoots to about 20cm

Keep deadheading border plants, unless you want to collect their seeds

Remove suckers from roses or around the base of trees

Collect seeds and ripe seed pods from your favourite flowers and vegetables

Prop up any clumps of tall border plants that are starting to flop, using canes and string, or twiggy sticks

Prepare soil for sowing a lawn or laying turf during September and October

Go on regular snail hunts, especially on damp evenings, to reduce populations

Turn compost to speed up decomposition

During periods of drought or dry weather, be sure to water wisely.

G M TREVELYAN's - English Social History -
A SURVEY OF SIX CENTURIES Chaucer to Queen Victoria

Until the eighteenth century with its highly capitalized farming, it was not possible to ripen enough wheat to feed the whole population. Oats, wheat, rye and and barley were all grown, some more, some less, according to the soil and climate. Oats prevailed in the north; wheat and rye in most parts of England, except the south-west where rye was little grown. Everywhere barley abounded, and much of it went into beer. The west, with its apple orchards, drank cider; and the pears of Worcestershire gave perry, which Camden condemned as a 'counterfeit wine, both cold and flatulent. In all parts of England the village grew a variety of crops for its own use, and its bread was often a mixture of different kinds of grain. Fynes Moryson, who knew the chief countries of Europe well, wrote, shortly after Queen Elizabeth's death :

The English husbandmen eat barley and rye brown bread, and prefer it to white bread as abiding longer in the stomach, and not so soon digested with their labour; but citizens and gentlemen eat most pure white bread, England yielding all kinds of corn in plenty.

The English have abundance of white meats, of all kinds of flesh, fowl, and fish and of things good for food. In the seasons of the year the English eat fallow deer plentifully, as bucks in summer and does in winter, which they bake, in pasties, and this venison pasty is a dainty, rarely found in any other kingdom. England, yea perhaps one' County thereof, hath more fallow deer than all Europe that I have seen. No kingdom in the world hath so many dove-houses. Likewise brawn is a proper meat to the English, not known to others. English cooks, in comparison with other nations, are most commended for roasted meats.

This experienced traveller goes on to praise our beef and mutton as the best in Europe, and our bacon as better than any except that of Westphalia.

The English inhabitants [he continues], eat almost no flesh commoner than hens, and for geese they eat them in two seasons, when they are fatted upon the stubble after harvest and when they are green about Whitsuntide. And howsoever hares are thought to nourish melancholy, yet they are eaten as venison both roast and boiled. They have also great plenty of conies [rabbits] the flesh whereof is fat, tender, and more delicate than any I have eaten in other parts. The German conies [our traveller declares] are more like roasted cats than the English conies.

Meat and bread were the chief foods. Vegetables were little eaten with meat; cabbages helped to make the pottage. Potatoes were just beginning to come in to some garden plots, but were not yet grown as a crop in the fields.

Puddings and stewed fruit did not yet play so great a part in the Englishman's table as in later centuries, though sugar was already obtained in moderate

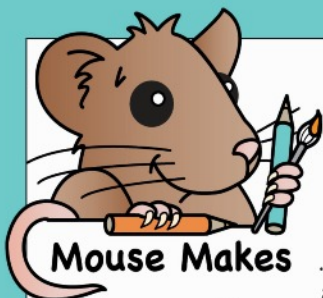
quantities from Mediterranean lands. The time of dinner, the chief meal, was at eleven or twelve, and supper some five hours later.

Since the English village, whether in the western lands of old enclosure or in the 'champion' regions of the open field, still grew its own food, 'subsistence agriculture' was the basis of English life. But, as we have seen, the self-supplying village also grew wool and food-stuffs for some special market at home or abroad. 'Industrial crops' were also coming much into use; flax grew well in some parts of Lincolnshire; woad, madder, and the great fields of saffron in Essex (whence 'Saffron Walden' already had taken its name) supplied the dyers of cloth, who had previously depended on foreign imports.

Such specialization for the market demanded enclosure and private methods of farming. The new lands won from forest, marsh, and waste, were now always enclosed with hedges and farmed on the individualist system. The area of open field and common pasture did not increase as the total area under cultivation increased. The bleak open fields, though not much reduced in acreage, were relatively a smaller part of the farmlands of the kingdom than they had formerly been.

It was the low-lying clay districts that produced the surplus corn for the home and foreign market. The sheep, that supplied the wool and cloth trades, fed on the thin upland pastures which alternate with the clay valleys in the geographic structure of the island. The chalk downs and the Wolds the Chilterns, the Dorset Heights, the Isle of Wight, the Cotswolds, the Lincoln and Norfolk ridges, and many moorlands of the north, had always produced the best wool. On such hillsides, foreign and native travellers in Tudor England marvelled at the number and size of the flocks, unparalleled elsewhere in Europe. The sheep on the less fertile lands were often half starved, but their fleeces were the most valuable in the world, owing to some quality latent in the soil.

The increased demand for sheep and cattle in Tudor times caused, as we have seen, some highly unpopular enclosures of arable clay-land for pasture. The valley sheep were fatter, but their wool proved less good than that of their leaner brethren of the uplands. Yet the new lowland pastures were not unprofitable: though their fleeces were less fine, the demand for coarser wools was also on the increase, and larger supplies of mutton and beef were consumed by a prosperous and hospitable generation, whose carnivorous habits amazed foreign visitors accustomed to a more farinaceous diet. The Midlands therefore continued in Elizabeth's reign to add sheep and cattle to corn. Rugby 'abounded in butchers'. The cattle fairs of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire were famous. The great quantities of cattle in the island helped all leather industries; the southern English walked on leather, and disdained the 'wooden shoes' that foreigners were fain to wear. Clogs, however, were very generally worn in the thrifty north, and Scots lads and lasses went barefoot. ##



"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many..."

...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27



Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a whole living church!



K N E E S
J O W H O L E
T E E T H H Q J V
E A F H E A D O E
Y C F M A N Y I R
H E B O D Y N Y
C E Y E S D E F
H T K C P M D I
R U Q U I O I N
I N F T R U F G
S I M O I T F E
T O G E T H E R
O N O S E A R S
N G D B Q I E N
G I W O U A N F
V U F A P A R T S M
K E T L R L M V Y D
B W S L E G S Q E B

Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



"Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body."



from Romans 12:1-7





Bishop's letter Manna - August 2025

Do you use Wikipedia? It's often a very convenient place to look for information when we want to know more about something or about a person. But, perhaps, like me you've discovered its limitations. As you might anticipate from a free online encyclopaedia to which anyone can contribute and is open to anyone to edit it is both impressively collaborative and also sometimes incomplete or less than fully accurate. Nevertheless, it remains for me – and perhaps you? – a go-to source of quick information.

So, I wasn't surprised when I consulted Wikipedia's 'August anniversaries' to find it is less than comprehensive about the Christian calendar this month. St Bartholomew's Day is recorded on 24 August – alongside Ukraine Independence Day which surely also deserves marking. Bartholomew (usually identified as Nathanael, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus) isn't generally well celebrated on his festival day, except in places where he's the patron saint of the parish and church, such as Crewkerne where the annual charter fair remembers their link with St Bart. Even so their fair has been moved into September after the end of the holiday season.

August frequently means reduced activity, and fewer events. If that's an opportunity for catching our breath and taking a break from the challenges of deadlines and expectations, then all well and good. But let's not forget, despite them being omitted from the Wikipedia list, the other red-letter August days in the calendar. On 15 August we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our Lord Jesus, and on the 6 August, we mark the glorious Transfiguration of our Lord. That festival day recalls how Peter, James and John experienced on a mountain top the transformation of Jesus' physical appearance, enabling them to glimpse the glory of his divinity.

Make the most of these three significant festival days in August. As well, don't forget the other significant days this month, such as Ukraine Independence Day (24), VJ day (15) marking the end of World War 2, and – another date missed in the Wikipedia list – the 80th anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Saints' days and anniversaries are significant prompts to our prayers.

Bishop Christopher Foster

Somerset Folklore



Somerset, a county rich in folklore, previously called the Summer Lands due to its verdant green pastures, and which has its fair share of strange creatures. From the Oak Men who haunt the woods and the Giant Worm of Shervage Wood, to the more familiar witches, hobgoblins, faeries and pixies. Although pixies are more often associated with Cornwall, it was always understood by residents of this county that everywhere west of the River Parret was pixie land. According to local folklore, Buckland St Mary is the last place where a small race of red clad faeries were seen; they were defeated in battle by the pixies and fled, some to Devon and Dorset and a few making their way to Ireland.

When faeries are mentioned most people think of Disney's Tinkerbell, a sweet winged creature. But if you had said 'faerie,' even a hundred years ago, the reaction would have been very different; country people had a healthy fear and respect for these creatures, believing them to be responsible for many instances of bad luck or illness in their everyday life. The little people had to be treated with respect and appeased with offerings of cream and bread to avoid their anger. Many farmers would leave offerings outside their barns in

the hope that the pixies would finish the threshing or help with the harvest. This practice was carried on inside the house as well; hearths would be swept and cleared every night so that the faeries could dance in the fireplace and bowls of fresh water left out for them to bathe in. Woe betide the housewife or servant that forgot, for mischief would follow. Interaction was to be avoided for fear of angering them, one well known encounter ended badly for the mortal as a 17th century account reports.

Riding across the Blackdown Hills a man stumbled across a faerie market when travelling back to his home at Combe St Nicholas. On the side of the hill was gathered a large number of small brightly garbed people, and he could see peddlers with trays of ribbons and trinkets wandering amongst the tents and crowds. As he drew nearer the figures began to fade but as he passed through the invisible throng he felt himself being pushed and pinched. Quickly leaving the fairground he could see the figures reappearing behind him, and began to experience pain where he had been touched by the invisible hands. By the time he had reached home a strange paralysis had afflicted him down one side, and this, coupled with the pain, continued for the rest of his life.

This particular market has been seen several times over the years but none venture too close as the faeries do not welcome guests to this event.

Although some intrepid souls thought nothing of the danger in the

quest for buried treasure for beneath the many hills of Somerset was believed to be hoards of faerie gold. Cadbury Hill, thought to be Arthur's Camelot, was once home to faeries before they were driven away by the sound of the newly erected church bells nearby. Here they stored grain which they had gathered from the surrounding plain. They left so quickly that they didn't have time to remove the gold from the hidden passageways beneath the mound. A well known rhyme tells of the immense wealth hidden beneath the hill:

*'If Cadbury and Dolbury dolven
were
All England would have a golden
share.*

Cadbury's treasure is impossible to retrieve however as the harder it is dug for, the farther it sinks into the earth of the hill.

Other such sites include Rugborough Camp, Broomfield, and Castle Neroche. Here the treasure seekers fled in fear and empty handed after hearing strange noises and ghostly voices, but not soon enough for within a month each of the men were dead.

Parents especially would be concerned about faeries, fearing that their un-baptized babies would be snatched and a changeling left in their place.

One Somerset old wives tale is that you should never dress your child in green until after the christening, as green is the faeries favourite colour and it would enable them to steal the infant.

So for protection, an open pair of scissors would be hung over the cot, as faeries cannot bear iron, or an iron pin would be stuck into the baby's clothes. Holy water would also be sprinkled over the child and the cot.

No discussion of the folklore of Somerset can omit Glastonbury, the sacred isle of Avalon, and supposedly the last resting place of King Arthur. Here on the Tor is said to be the entrance to Faerieland, known as Annwyn, guarded by the Faerie King himself, Gwyn Ap Nudd. His crystal realm is the meeting place of the dead, and it is from here on Samhain (31st October), that he leads the Wild Hunt out across the Somerset countryside.

Now you might think that this is all gone and forgotten but some traditions still prevail; the wassailing of the apple trees during the winter months is still as prevalent today as ever. Offerings of toast dipped in cider are left in the branches of the oldest tree in the orchard to honour 'The Apple Tree Man' who is the guardian of orchards. Cider is drunk from the wassailing bowl and if any remains, it is poured over the roots of the tree.

*'Old Apple Tree we wassail thee, and
happily thou wilt bear,
For the Lord knows where we shall
be,
Till apples another year.'*

To ensure future crops the last few apples must be left for the 'The Apple Tree Man' and the pixies.

Elizabeth Andrews

BOOK REVIEWS

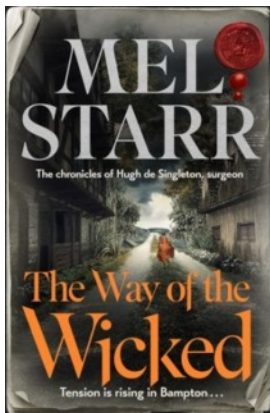
Walking Oxford -

By Vicky Wilson



The eight walks in this book look beyond Oxford's famous dreaming spires to uncover a diverse story of millstreams and medieval

lanes, breweries and jam factories, social housing and grand suburbs, religion and science. As well as including the many colleges and majestic University buildings, the walks explore the particular circumstances of the areas they cover and tell the stories of the extraordinary people who shaped Oxford's history – and often that of the world beyond.



The Way of the Wicked By Mel Starr

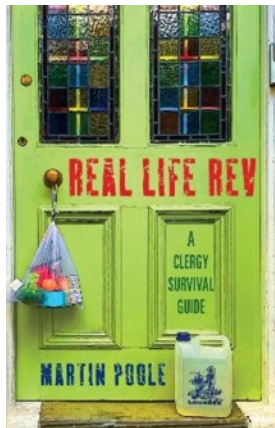
Visit the world of 14th century England in this thrilling historical murder mystery, the 17th in the popular Chronicles of

Hugh de Singleton

When Kendrick Wroe is found dead in the frozen Shill Brook, most suspect he has been poaching Lord Gilbert's fish, though Sir Hugh believes this may not be so. Then one of Kendrick's friends is slain; another seems to be in mortal peril, and Hugh's daughter Bessie is abducted. As the deaths rise and events begin to spiral out of control, it's all Hugh can do to master his anxiety and uncover the killer.

Real Life Rev

A clergy survival guide
Martin Poole



Clergy life is full of surprises – and many of them don't come up in lectures at theological college. From tricky PCC meetings to unexpected pastoral situations to

the quirks of church buildings, this honest and humorous guide dives into the messy, holy, and often unpredictable realities of parish ministry.

With warmth and wit, the book offers practical wisdom for navigating the everyday challenges of church leadership. Whether it's managing conflicting opinions, opening the church to a wider community, or simply deciding what to do when a lorry arrives with two tons of yogurt

drink for your food bank, Martin Poole offers encouragement for those discovering that ministry is rarely tidy – but always full of grace.

On the 30th August -we remember

John Bunyan, the writer of Pilgrim's Progress



After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than 100 languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic. Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of

his life. He wrote more than 50 books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book, but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world. Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31st August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, "My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder." ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...'



SMILES

Fish and chips

Some tourists touring the north of England stopped to visit a Priory. The Prior gave them a tour of the buildings, ending in the kitchen, where one monk was making fish and chips. One tourist said brightly: "You must be the fish friar," to which the monk gravely replied, "No, I am the chip monk."

Golf

There was a clergyman who was an avid golfer. One Sunday was a picture-perfect day for golf, and the minister could not resist the temptation. He rang his assistant and told him he was too ill to attend church. Then he packed up the car, drove 30 miles to a golf course, and began to play. But an angel watching the minister was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, "Look at the minister. He should be punished for what he's doing."

God nodded in agreement as the minister teed up on the tenth hole. He swung, and the ball sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup, 350 yards away. A perfect hole-in-one. The minister was overjoyed. The angel turned to God and said: "Begging your pardon, but I thought You were going to punish him." And God smiled. "Think about it; who can he tell?"

Holiday

A travel agent looked up from his desk to see an older lady

and an older gentleman peering in the shop window at the posters showing the glamorous destinations around the world. The agent had had a good week and the dejected couple looking in the window gave him a feeling of generosity.

He called them into his shop and said, "I have a surprise for you. I am sending you off to a fabulous resort at my expense, and I won't take no for an answer."

He booked two flights and a room in a five star hotel. They, as can be expected, gladly accepted, and were on their way.

About a month later the little old lady came into his shop. "And how did you like your holiday?" he asked eagerly.

"The flight was exciting, and the room was lovely," she said. "I've come to thank you. But just one thing puzzled me. Who was that old guy I had to share the room with?"

Water works

A woman goes to the Doctor, worried about her husband's temper.

The Doctor asks: "What's the problem?"

The woman says: "Doctor, I don't know what to do. Every day my husband seems to lose his temper for no reason. It scares me."

The Doctor says: "I have a cure for that. When it seems that your husband is getting angry, just take a glass of water and start swishing it in your mouth. Just swish and swish but don't swallow it until he either leaves the room or calms down."

Two weeks later the woman comes back to the doctor looking fresh and reborn.

The woman says: "Doctor that was a brilliant idea! Every time my husband started losing it, I swished with water. I swished and swished, and he calmed right down! How does a glass of water do that?" The Doctor says: "The water itself does nothing. It's keeping your mouth shut that does the trick".

Donald Trump was walking through Manhattan and saw a long queue. Wondering what is was for, he joined it.

People would look over their shoulder, see that is was Donald Trump behind them, and leave the queue, so he would proceed closer and closer to the front.

As he was getting closer to the head of the queue, he asked one guy, who also looked and was about to walk away, "Wait a second, what is this queue for and why are you now leaving it?"

The man said "This is the queue for Canadian Immigration Visas, but if you are getting one, I don't need one now."

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language...of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility .

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English ".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy . The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter .

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter . In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling . Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away .

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v" .

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru. Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.



St James the Least of All
On the annual war of pumpkin-growing

*From The Rectory
St James the Least*

My dear Nephew Darren,

Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised the annual pumpkin growing competition. Very regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since, the church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. I suspect some of the original recipients of those seeds still compete. There is a certain irony that the church, which is supposed to promote peace and harmony, sponsors the most war-like activity in the annual calendar.

Mobilisation starts at the beginning of the year when seeds are planted. From that moment on, every other potential entrant is regarded as the Enemy. Once seedlings are planted out, then heavy armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring, paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate of espionage and sinister undetectable herbicides. Anyone in the village with a beard is looked on with deep suspicion.

In the weeks before the competition, homes, partners and children are abandoned, as contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. Should bad weather arrive at this point, then I am blamed for not having prayed sufficiently fervently for sunshine and light rain. If only I had such influence. On the day before the show, tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for the past 25 years; she now believes she has squatters' rights to that place, and any challenge to her claim would probably result in litigation.

I find this competitive spirit a little bemusing, as for the last 25 years, the Earl of Stowe has always won first prize. That his mother, the Dowager Countess, is the judge, is, I am sure, pure coincidence. That she has arrived for the past three years with a white stick and accompanied by a golden Labrador does, however, raise doubts.

To award the Earl any prize at all does seem a little unfair, when the only time he ever gets mud on his boots is when he falls off his horse while hunting. I suspect he would be hard pressed to find where the kitchen garden is on his estate. But to give any credit to his gardening staff would be seen as bad form, so we all keep quiet. It has been tentatively suggested that another judge should be appointed, but no one has so far had the courage to step forward. They may have the privilege of nominating the winner, but they would also have to face a 12 month period of hatred from all those who were not successful. Christmas card lists will be amended. Families may have sat next to them in church for generations, but would suddenly find it more congenial to worship in another part of the church. Letters would be strangely mis-delivered, and the butcher's boy would suddenly deliver lamb when pork had been ordered. Who could dare to take on such a poisoned chalice?

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Regular weekly events

MONDAYS

10.00-11am Nia (Dance fitness) HUB
10.00-12noon Painting Group FBC
1.30-4.00pm Whist Club FBC
2.00-4.00pm Bridge (except 1st Monday) FBC
6.15-7.15pm Zumba HUB
7.30pm Tone Big Band (1st & 3rd Mon) HUB

TUESDAYS

6.15-7.00am Group Fitness Training HUB
10.30-11.30am Qigong HUB
1.30-2.30pm Tai Chi HUB
10.00-4.00pm Board Games FBC
7.00-8.00pm Yoga HUB

WEDNESDAYS

10.00-11.00am Pilates for Everyone HUB
10.00- 11.00am Flexercise FBC
11.00-12noon Mum and Baby Pilates HUB
2.00- 4.30pm Short Mat Bowls HUB
6.00- 7.00pm Tae Kwon Do HUB

THURS DAYS

6.15-7.00am Group Fitness Training HUB
10.00-12noon Baby Badgers HUB
10.00-12noon Bridge Club FBC
2.00-4.00pm Croquet FBC

FRIDAYS

8.30-1.00 pm Star Bubs HUB
10.00-12noon Pétanque FBC
10.00-12noon Frank's Café FBC
4.45-8.15pm Martial Arts HUB

SATURDAYS

6.30-7.15am Group Fitness Training HUB
9.30-11.30am Hub Gardening Club HUB
9.00pm Bingo Con Club

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

YOUR SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

John Hunt (Independent)
07880 794554
john.hunt@somerset.gov.uk
Cllr Caroline Ellis 07473 119425
cjellis1968@googlemail.com

Your Member of Parliament

Gideon John Amos Lib/Dem

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Taunton Citizens advice - 0808 278 7842

Village Agent - 01823 331 222

Mindline, a 24/7 phoneline available to support people of all ages offering a listening and advice service for wellbeing. You can call Mindline on 01823 27689. Information about childcare <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Taunton Foodbank
<https://taunton.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

Free support and advice about: Money, food, home, health and wellbeing, domestic abuse, problems with drugs and alcohol and parenting visit:

www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4all

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

BH Parish Council - Helen McGladdery 07518144614
clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk

BH Pre School - 07928 950230
BH Primary School - 331624
Castle School - 274073
Spring Nursery - 793506

Community Room & School Hall
Rick Moon 354908

Frank Bond Centre - Nadia 07958
246046

Neighbourhood Beat Team

PCSO Lyndsay Smith & PCSO
Marshall Bernhardt
Call 101 or 999 in emergency
lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk
marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Robin Close Hall - 356389

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church
Rev. Phil Hughes 336102

BISHOP'S HULL ORGANISATIONS

BH Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show
- Amanda Gallacher 337720

Bishop's Hull HUB -
booking: bhhubbookings@gmail.com
General enquiries and events:
bishopshullhub@gmail.com
Bishops Hull Hub cafe -
bishopshullhubcafe@gmail.com

BH Short Mat Bowls - Alan Chapman
01823 630641
bhsmbc@yahoo.com

BH VH & Playing Fields Trust -
Paul Bulbeck 283941

BH WI — Sue Hazelwood 01823
323986

British Martial Arts and Boxing
Association Tae Kwon Do
alecmhay@aol.com

Brownies - Sheena Grinter 331184

Community Woodland Volunteer -
David 272415

Nia (Dance Fitness) - Jackie
07949735139

FBC Activities - Carolyn 283941

Infinity Martial Academy - Jon 07736
714370
jonakkc@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates - Larissa
lapilates7@gmail.com / larissa@la-
pilates.com

Somerset Hills Chorus - Brenda
Palfrey 07857 244272

Tae Kwon Do - Sebastian Morey-
Weale 07900 517767

Tai Chi - Bev Fernandes 07880
555984

Zumba - Felicity 07939 580327

REFUSE / RECYCLING
/GARDEN COLLECTIONS

Dates below taken from Somerset
Council Website.

Please note new day for recycling and
refuse collections.

**Recycling: Every Thursday - all
areas**

BISHOP'S HULL, SHUTEWATER,
UPCOTT & BARR

Refuse:	Thursday
Garden:	Monday
	<u>RUMWELL</u>
Refuse:	Thursday
Garden:	Wednesday

STONEGALLOWS

Refuse:	Thursday
Garden:	Monday

BH COUNCIL PRIVACY
STATEMENT AND POLICY

[http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/
Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf](http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf)
[http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/
parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf](http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf)

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL AUGUST 2025

Sunday 3 August Trinity 7	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Col 3:1-11 1184 Luke 12:13-21 1044	Sally Adams
Wednesday 6 August	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 10 August Trinity 8	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Heb 11:1-3 & 8-16 1209 Luke 12:32-40 1045	David Ager
Wednesday 13 August	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 17 August Trinity 9	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Heb 11:29-12:2 1210 Luke 12:49-56 1045	Rosemary Lockley
Wednesday 20 August	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 24 August Trinity 10	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Heb 12:18-end 1211 Luke 13:10-17 1046	Sue Martin
Wednesday 27 August	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 31 August Trinity 11	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Heb 13:1-8 & 15-16 1212 Luke 14:1 & 7-14 1047	Christabel Ager

GRASS CUTTING



CHURCH DIRECTORY (01823)

Church web site: www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk

Vicar:

Rev. Philip Hughes

336102

(Usual day off - Friday)

phil2overflowing@gmail.com



Rev Philip Hughes

Church Wardens: Tim Venn John Perry

Treasurer

Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Beverley Keitch

Other PCC Members - Rachel Horder. Mark Dakin
Sue Martin Hilary Harper . Lillian Priest

St Peter and St Paul's PCC 2025-2026

1. Rev Phil Hughes (Vicar)
2. Tim Venn (Church Warden)
3. John Perry (Church Warden)
4. Rachel Horder
5. Beverley Keitch (Parish Safeguarding Officer),
6. Mark Dakin
7. Sue Martin
8. Hilary Harper
9. Lillian Priest



10 And you? The PCC is a great team to belong to and is there to assist the Vicar in the Mission and function of the church. If you think God may be calling you to serve in this way there are lots of opportunities, so do have a chat with one of the fab team!